The subject was also discussed in the meeting of Northern Zonal Council held at Srinagar on 20th October, 1997, when it was decided that a separate Conference of the Chief Ministers and concerned Ministers of the States of the Northern Zone could be convened at which Union Ministers and senior officers from the Ministries of Water Resources and Power could also be present. This conference could undertake indepth study of all the relevant issues and factors relating to sharing of water and power and evolve consensus on mutually agreeable parameters.

Accordingly, an official level meeting was convened by the Ministry of Power at Chandigarh on 16.9.98 which was attended among others by the representative of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan as well as Himachal Pradesh. However, because of the rigid and divergent stand taken by the concerned State Governments, no consensus could be possible. A separate conference of Chief Ministers is now contemplated to be held shortly. Any attempt would be made to resolving the issues in consultation with the concerned State Governments.

Surplus Power in the Eastern Region

259. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Eastern region is considered to be a surplus region in power generation;

(b) if so, the reasons for the surplus generation in this region;

(c) what is the total surplus; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to offset The surplus?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The surplus power availability in Eastern Region is due to inadequate growth in load and sub-transmission and distribution network as compared to growth in generation capacity.

(c) The estimated surplus of power in the peak and off-peak hours in the Eastern Region is of the order of 1500 MW and 3500 MW respectively.

(d) The following steps have been taken to offset the surplus in the Eastern Region:

(i) Institutional arrangements have been made to transfer power from Eastern Region to the State/UTs in the Southern, Western, Northern and North-Eastern regions to the extent possible.

(ii) Some inter-regional links are under construction for enhancing export of power.

(iii) Steps are also being taken for augmentation of transmission system within the region for load development as well as to maximise export of power from Eastern region to the other regions.

Cutting off Power Supply by NTPC to West Bengal and Bihar

260. SHRI GURUDAS" DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has cut off power supply to West Bengal and Bihar due to non-payment of dues;

(b) if so, the details of the dues owed to NTPC by different States; and

(c) the reasons for stopping the power supply only to these two states?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) resorted to regulation of power supply to West Bengal from Farakka Super Thermal Power Station on the